

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9844

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S E C R E T SAIGON 5920

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI VS

SUBJECT: CURRENT VC/ NVA INTENTIONS IN MR IV

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

CAN THO 0143

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, VS

SUBJECT: CURRENT VC/ NVA INTENTIONS IN MR IV

REFERENCE: (A) CAN THO 0109, (B) 0118, (C) 0136

SUMMARY: ARVN MR 4 G-2 SOURCES PREDICT THE VC/ NVA WILL CONTINUE THEIR EFFORT TO SEIZE AN ENTRY POINT NEAR HONG NGU, AND WILL SUPPORT THIS THRUST WITH MAJOR DIVERSIONARY ATTACKS IN CHUONG THEIN AND DINH TUONG. END SUMMARY.

1. HONG NGU: ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATIONS INTERCEPTS, CAPTURED DOCUMENTS, AND PRISONERS CONFIRM THE VC/ NVA HAVE ASSEMBLED A PROVISIONAL DIVISION IN THE HONG NGU AREA WITHIN NORTHERN KIEN PHONG AND CAMBODIA. IN ADDITIONAL TO THE THREE NVA REGIMENTS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, COSVN HAS ASSEMBLED AN ARTILLERY UNIT WHICH G-2 CARRIES AS THE NVA 75 REGIMENT. THE INFANTRY REGI-
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MENTS ARE REPORTED TO BE THE NVA 272, 207, AND E-2. THE DIVISION ALSO HAS A SAPPER BATTALION ATTACHED.

IF THE VC/ NVA

SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISH A HONG NGU ENTRY POINT, THEY MAY REINFORCE IT WITH ANTI- AIRCRAFT AND ARTILLERY. TO DATE, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO CONFIRMATION OF ARTILLERY PIECES NOR ARE THERE FURTHER REPORTS ON MOVEMENTS OF ARMOR.

2. DINH TUONG: VC/ NVA UNITS IN DINH TUONG ARE LAUNCHING STRONG OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST RVNAF POSITIONS IN CENTRAL DINH TUONG. THE ATTACKS HAVE TWO OBJECTIVES. FIRST THEY HAVE BEEN TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE HONG NGU OFFENSIVE TO ENSURE ARVN DOES NOT DIVERT 7 TH DIVISION UNITS TO REINFORCE THE HONG NGU POSITION. SECOND, THE VC/ NVA WISH TO INCREASE THEIR HOLD ON THE " JULY 20" BASE AREA IN SOUTHERN CAI LAY AND CAI BE DISTRICTS OF DINH TUONG.

3. CHUONG THIEN: THE CO SAU YEN MEETING OF SENIOR VC/ NVA POLITICAL AND MILITARY CADRE IS OVER (REFERENCE B) AND VC/ NVA FORCES ARE PRESSING THEIR ATTACKS PRIMARILY THROUGH MORTARING AND ROCKETING THROUGH THE PROVINCE. AS IN DIN TUONG, THE RENEWED HIGH-POINT (REF C) COINCIDES WITH VC/ NVA ATTACKS IN HONG NGU AND MAY FIT INTO THEIR OVERALL STRATEGY OF STRENGTHENING BASE AREAS AND SECURING COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THOSE AREAS.

4. BAC LIEU: NEW INTELLIGENCE CONVINCES G-2 THAT VC/ NVA FORCES IN VINH CHAU DISTRICT HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SEIZE THE MOUTH OF THE MY THANH RIVER AS A SMALL VESSEL ENTRY POINT FOR ARMS, ATTACKS AGAINST RVNAF POSITIONS ALONG THE MY THANH RIVER ARE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY AND DIVERT RVNAF UNITS. VC/ NVA PROBES HAVE AT LEAST THE SECONDARY INTENTIONS OF INCREASING VC CONTROL OF TERRITORY IN VINH CHAU.

5. HA TIEN: THE NVA E-46 TEGIMENT OF THE 1 ST NVA DIVISION HAS WITHDRAWN TO CAMBODIA. ITS DEPARTURE, HOWEVER, ONLY TEMPORARILY RELIEVES HA TIEN AND NORTHERN KIEN GIANG FROM VC/ NVA PRESSURE. THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS REMAINS WITHIN ONE KILOMETER OF THE BORDER AND THE REGIMENT COULD BE RECOMMITTED AT A LATER DATE IN SUPPORT OF OTHER VC MR II AND III OBJECTIVES. THE UNIT IS SERIOUSLY UNDER- STRENGTH AND SHORT OF EQUIPMENT AND CAN BE EXPECTED ONLY TO PROVIDE A MILD DIVERSION.

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